

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0062006

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Peru

DATE DISTR. 30 NOV 50

SUBJECT Labor's Reaction to Recent Economic Decrees

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1A

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The economic decrees announced by President Odria of Peru on 12 October 1950 came as a surprise to Peruvian labor and are regarded as unsatisfactory by labor in general. Only the day before, President Odria had given a luncheon for the directors of labor syndicates in and about Lima, to which government officials and labor deputies were also invited. [REDACTED] the luncheon was promoted by Labor Senator Juan P. Luna as a means of bringing the President and labor together, probably in the hope of softening the blow labor was to receive on the following day. Syndicate leaders from most of the major labor organizations in the area attended the luncheon. The Communist element in labor was also well represented. 25X1X
2. In an attempt to appease labor and obtain clarification of certain points raised by the President's decrees, a delegation of labor deputies, headed by Senator Luna, called on President Odria. The delegation included Fortunato Copeda, German de la Fuente, Julian Navarro, Francisco Viale and Ricardo Caceres. The latter two are members of the tiny opposition bloc in Congress. The delegation gave President Odria a memorandum containing the following recommendations in favor of labor:
 - a. That labor syndicate leaders be allowed to present to the Director of Labor all special problems presently confronting their respective groups.
 - b. That an immediate solution be found for all pending labor claims.
 - c. That trade unions and syndicate leaders be guaranteed the right to function freely. Source commented that this point was aimed directly at the recent detention of several textile leaders whom the Peruvian government had charged were Aprista labor agitators.
 - d. That the Director of Labor clarify publicly how the section of the decree suspending claims and pay increases for six months will be enforced.
3. As of the end of October, the only labor organization which had publicly supported the President's action was the Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores en Autobuses (SUTA), the Luna-controlled bus drivers and chauffeurs union.*
4. Of further interest on the labor front is the proposed Second Regional Miners' Congress scheduled for sometime in late November. [REDACTED] 25X1X

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Next Review Date: 2008

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 Class. Changed To: TS S C
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Comment. Humberto Carpio, Secretary of Defense of SUTA and one of Luna's collaborators, outlined the advantages to labor of supporting this decree. He stressed the desirability of developing a nationalistic consciousness and spirit of collaboration between the state and labor. He discussed the need for a workers' congress, and mentioned specific action being taken by the chauffeurs toward realizing such a congress. Source commented that Carpio's action in the name of SUTA is merely an expression of Luna's attitude. A Regional Congress of Chauffeurs in the south will be held in late October or early November in Arequipa. Source reported that the Communist-controlled Comité Departamental de Trabajadores de Arequipa (Workers' Committee of the Department of Arequipa) will exercise considerable control over this congress through the Sindicato Central de Choferes de Arequipa, the union in charge of organization. Source commented that two Communist labor leaders from the south, Luis Hector Salas and Mariano Dejarano, who were active organizers of the Communist-controlled workers' congress held in Arequipa in late 1949, are on the organizing committee of the chauffeurs' congress.

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